

Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP)

Project Proposal

Project Title:

Romere Pass Marsh Creation

Entity/Individual Nominating Project:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex

Contact Information:

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Total CIAP Funds Requested:

\$15 million

Infrastructure Funds Proposed:

No infrastructure funds proposed.

Description and Location of Project:

Project is located in Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, east of terminus of Romere Pass. Project will expand upon and complement a project proposed for consideration under CWPPRA PL-16. Sediment will be dredged from Breton Sound/Gulf of Mexico and placed in interior ponds and along eroding shorelines and planted with vegetation to create approximately 200 acres of emergent marsh. In addition, 50 acres of degraded marsh will be nourished with dredged material. Areas of shoreline degradation will be rebuilt to slow shoreline retreat. Approximately 500-600 acres of tidally influenced emergent marsh are expected to benefit from this project both directly and indirectly. The anticipated loss rate reduction throughout the area of direct benefits over the project life is 25%.

Project Type:

Conservation, restoration, and protection of coastal area, including wetland.

Project Justification:

Interior ponding and shoreline erosion are the major causes of wetland loss in the project area. Loss rates accelerated in the mid 1950's and have continued to the present. These high loss rates are associated with hydrologic alterations, including containment levees along the Mississippi River and canal construction which reduced input of sediments and allowed salt water to penetrate the fresher marshes. Subsidence and physical erosion have formed large ponds which are now connected to Breton Sound. A narrow strip of marsh is all that separates these ponds from the open Gulf of Mexico. Additional marsh loss has occurred with the passage of Hurricane Katrina.

The goal of this project is to re-create marsh habitat in the open water adjacent to the shoreline. This new marsh will maintain the shoreline rim function along this section of marsh by repairing existing breaches and preventing the formation of new breaches into the interior marsh.

Project supports Coast 2050 Strategies 6 – Restore/Sustain Marshes, 20 – Protect Bay/Lake Shorelines

Project Cost Share:

No cost share is anticipated at the current time.